

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197367

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FOLLOWING VIENNA 8194 SENT ACTION STATE INFO TEL AVIV LONDON
BONN COPENHAGEN OSLO THE HAGUE AMMAN BEIRUT MOSCOW CAIRO
GENEVA 03 SEP 73 RPT TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 8194

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: KREISKY-MEIR MEETING AND AFTERMATH

REF: VIENNA 8086

1. SUMMARY: KREISKY-MEIR MEETING INCONCLUSIVE ALTHOUGH KREISKY PUT
FORWARD "COMPROMISE" PROPOSAL TO PUT SCHOENAU CAMP UNDER UN AUSPICES.
GOA SHOWING NO HURRY TO INPLEMENT DECISION ON CLOSURE OF CAMP;
FLOW OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES THROUGH CAMP CONTINUES UNCHANGED.
END SUMMARY

2. KREISKY-MEIR MEETING WHICH LASTER OVER 90 MINUTES LATE AFTERNOON
OCTOBER 2 RESULTED IN REASSERTION BY BOTH SIDES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE
POSITIONS ON CLOSURE OF SCHOENAU CAMP. KREISKY'S "COMPROMISE"
PROPOSAL TO GOLDA MEIR (MADE PUBLIC AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING
MEETING) TO PUT SCHOENAU CAMP UNDER UN AUSPICES IS BEING ACCLAIMED
LOCALLY AS TYPICAL KREISKY TOUR DE FORCE. HIS SUGGESTION IS BEING
SEIZED UPON BY AVERAGE AUSTRIAN AND MOST OF MEDIA AS STROKE OF GENIUS
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AS SOLUTION OF MAGICIAN. SIMPLICITY OF PROPOSAL HAS GREAT LOCAL APPEAL SINCE IT SEEMS TO ENABLE AUSTRIA TO SAY TO WORLD AROUSED OVER ISSUE THAT IT NOW HAS OPPORTUNITY TO MATCH ITS CRITICISM WITH PERFORMANCE.

2. GOA SEEMS DETERMINED TO HOLD TO ITS DECISION TO PHASE OUT AUSTRIAN FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE HERETOFORE EXTENDED TO SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES TRANSITTING AUSTRIA. GOLDA MEIR'S SUDDEN VISIT WAS VIEWED LOCALLY AS MASSIVE EFFORT TO FORCE KREISKY TO MODIFY HIS STAND. TENSE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH MEETING HELD, PROMOTED IN PART BY MEDIA, HOWEVER RESULTED IN KREISKY BEING CAST AS UNDERDOG AND IN GIVING MEIR'S VISIT UNFORTUNATE AURA OF ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AUSTRIAN AFFAIRS. AUSTRIANS WHO MAY HAVE EARLIER QUESTIONED KREISKY'S JUDGMENT IN HANDLING ARAB TERRORIST INCIDENT NOW FIND THEMSELVES SHIFTING TO POSITION OF DEFENDING KREISKY'S ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS WHAT NOW SEEMS TO MANY AUSTRIANS TO BE LARGELY UNFRIENDLY, HYPOCRITICAL OUTSIDE WORLD.

3. GOA APPEARS TO BE IN NO HURRY TO SPELL OUT MECHANICS OF PHASING OUT OF FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. TIMING OF MOVE IS EXPLAINED AS BEING DEPENDENT ON TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES. LACK OF CLARITY OVER WHAT FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE ACTUALLY ENTAILS BESIDES USE OF SCHOENAU CAMP AND CONFUSION OVER MANNER IN WHICH GOA PROPOSES TO HANDLE TRANSITTING EMIGRES SEEM IN PART PURPOSEFUL.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN AVERAGE NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES ARRIVING AND DEPARTING VIENNA NOR HAS GOA THUS FAR TAKEN ANY STEPS PHYSICALLY TO CLOSE DOWN SCHOENAU CAMP. HUMES UNQUOTE RUSH

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